

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 676

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Xu Lin and the Confucius Institute.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to specially recognize those astute individuals whose efforts have served to expand cultural awareness and nurture harmony among people of differing ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Dr. Xu Lin, who has served as Director-General of Hanban and as Chief Executive of the Confucius Institute Headquarters since 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters is a nongovernmental and nonprofit organization affiliated with the Ministry of Education of China; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of Dr. Xu Lin, the Headquarters is committed to making Chinese language and culture teaching resources and services available to the world, meeting the demands of overseas Chinese learners and contributing to the formation of a world of cultural diversity and harmony; and

WHEREAS, each Confucius Institute affiliates with others across the globe, partnering to carry out their goals of international teaching; these institutes are established by the Office of Chinese Language Council International, which is headquartered in Beijing; and

WHEREAS, the only Confucius Institute in the State of Tennessee and the first in the Mid-South is located at the University of Memphis, under the direction of Dr. Hsiang-te Kung; in conjunction with its partner institution, Hubei University of China, the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis promotes understanding of the Chinese language and culture among U.S. citizens, develops friendly relations between the United States and China, accelerates the

expansion of multiculturalism, and provides opportunities for students to study the Chinese language; and

WHEREAS, on April 19 and 20 of 2008, the second Annual Conference of Confucius Institutes in the United States took place in Washington, D.C., bringing together ninety participants, including directors and associate directors from thirty-eight Confucius Institutes in the United States, representatives of the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), and officials from the Chinese Embassies in Washington, D.C., Houston, Chicago, San Francisco, and New York; and

WHEREAS, on the first day, Madam Xu Lin opened the conference, gave the keynote presentation, and presented the plans of the Confucius Institute Chinese Headquarters for 2008, including the five-year plan for Confucius Institute global development, the plan for director/teacher selection and training, the operation of an online Confucius Institute, and the orchestration of a televised Confucius Institute, among a myriad of other innovative plans; and

WHEREAS, a deeply qualified woman with a history of success in all she undertakes, Dr. Xu Lin has given of her time and many extraordinary talents in several prestigious positions; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Fudan University in Shanghai, Dr. Xu Lin earned her undergraduate degree in Chemistry and went on to obtain her Master's degree in Economics from Beijing Normal University; and

WHEREAS, from 1981 until 1992, she held various posts in the Finance Department of the Ministry of Education before becoming Assistant to the Mayor of Xuchang City in the Henan Province of China from 1992 until 1993; and

WHEREAS, advancing in her career pursuits, Madam Xu Lin soon became Vice Director of the Finance Department of the Ministry of Education, a position she held from 1993 until 1999; she then served as President of the Service Center for Chinese Study Fellows in New York until 2000; and

WHEREAS, a prominent leader in her field, Dr. Xu Lin served as Educational Counselor of the Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver, Canada from 2000 until 2003; in 2008, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2009, teachers and students at the University of Memphis will celebrate the second anniversary of the University's Confucius Institute, thankful for the wisdom of Madam Xu Lin and the support of Hanban and the Confucius Institute Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Xu Lin is a highly skilled and deeply passionate professional who has devoted herself to the success of Confucius Institutes worldwide and to the spread of cultural awareness and unity among people across the globe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Xu Lin for her fervent work as Director-General of Hanban and as Chief Executive of the Confucius Institute Headquarters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis on its upcoming two year anniversary and extend to the international program and its excellent staff our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.